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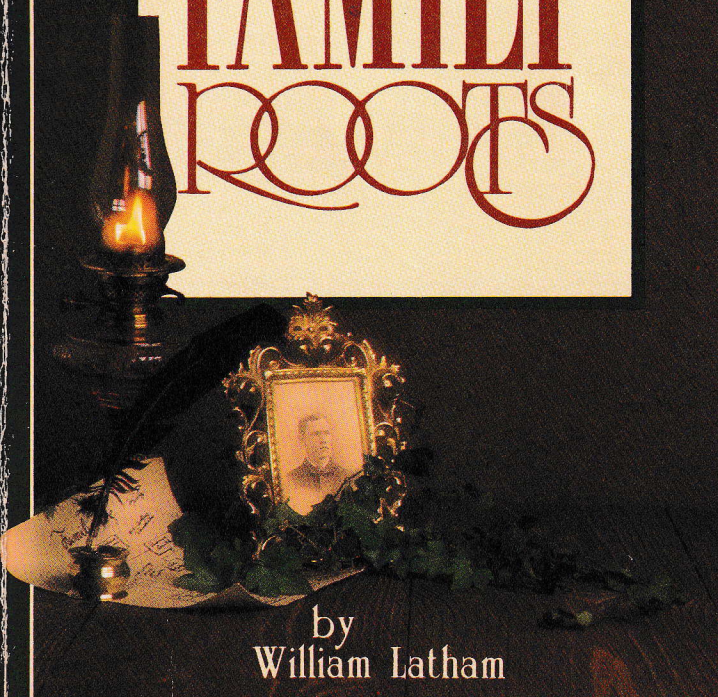
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# HOW to FIND YOUR FAMILY ROOTS



by  
William Latham



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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **The Excitement of Genealogy**

Have you ever wondered if one of your ancestors was a famous, important person? A President, or maybe even a King of another country? Perhaps your last name is Washington, and you've always fancied yourself as a distant relative of the father of our country. If you've shown a flair for painting or writing, maybe you've fantasized that your talent is really in your genes, coming from an ancestor with a name like Michelangelo or Shakespeare.

Yes, the heritage of each and every one of us is a fascinating thing. Who hasn't dreamed of origins, of people living in another place, in another time? Who hasn't seen an old photograph of a person that bore a striking resemblance to themselves, and thought, "What if . . .?"

The science of genealogy can unlock these doors and answer such intriguing questions as these. In this book, I will show you how you can go back into history to find out just who you *really* are and where you came from. While I will primarily be concentrating on tracing your American roots, I will also offer some helpful hints on obtaining information from your ancestral homeland. And what's more, I'll show you how to do it in a simple, easy, and inexpensive manner.

### **Definition and History of Genealogy**

The term, "genealogy," actually comes from two



Greek words, "genea," which means "race" or "family," and "logia," which means "science," or "study of." When we speak of the science of Genealogy, we are really talking about the study of the descent of a person or of a family.

The science of genealogy is as old as the Bible, which serves as the first written example of genealogy. Early civilizations like the Greeks, for example, showed a keen interest in genealogy—the works of Homer and the plays of Aeschylus and Euripedes prove this. Any way you look at it, however, interest in man's lineage is as old as civilized man himself.

One of the original uses of genealogy was to prove that a person was descended from either certain Gods and Goddesses or from particular Kings and Queens. Therefore, up until the 16th century, the science of genealogy was most often used by either rulers or the upper classes. In the 16th century, extensive written records began to be kept, thus making it far easier for ordinary citizens to trace back their lineage.

### **Your Goals and End Results**

As you begin the task of unraveling the mystery that is your origin, you will learn a great deal about the history of both America and the World, geography, people and their lifestyles, and most importantly, about yourself: who you are and where you come from.

Ideally, you should be able to trace yourself back to the original paternal and maternal immigrants of your family. If you are able to do this, you will know your complete American genealogy and you should congratulate yourself—this is not an easy task and many people never get this far. If you are extremely fortunate, you will be able to trace back your lineage to the forefathers of your family's original immigrants, to those who were born and those who died in some far away country hundreds of years ago.

Most likely, though, you will be able to go back several generations, which is an accomplishment you should be very proud of. Why? Because you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have done everything humanly possible to find your roots with the information available to you, and that you have set up a solid foundation for future generations who will also want to go back and search out their own roots. By providing a written record of your lineage now, you will give those who follow in your footsteps immeasurable joy in knowing just who they are and where they come from.

No matter how far back you are able to go, however, you have much ahead of you to look forward to. Anyone who enjoys a good mystery or a challenging crossword puzzle—and who doesn't—will find tracing a family tree to be an exciting experience. This search for your roots



will take you through time and from exotic place to exotic place both on paper and in your imagination, and will give you a greater sense of just exactly how you fit into this giant web of people and places that we call the history of mankind.

But perhaps I am getting a little too serious here. The main thing you must keep in mind is to have fun with your search. Because it's not about how far back you are able to go or how complete a family history you are able to put together. No, it's really about getting in touch with relatives you haven't talked to in a long time or perhaps have never even met. It's about finding long lost mementos and hearing old family tales that have been buried in the memories of your older relatives for years and years because nobody was ever truly interested enough to ask them to tell these stories. It's about all this and much more... so what are you waiting for? Let's begin your search for your family roots!

## CHAPTER TWO

# THE HISTORY OF IMMIGRANTS



## Crossing the Ocean

Beginning with those who sailed to America aboard the Mayflower in 1620, the first immigrants who came to our country were primarily from England. In the early part of the 18th century, the Germans, Scottish, and Irish began crossing over, and by the end of the 1700s, there were close to five million people living in the United States, most of whom were from these four original countries. (There were also  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million black African slaves living in the United States at this time, but because they did not come here of their own choosing, they were not included in immigration figures.)

By the mid-1800s, people from all over the world, including Ireland, France, Switzerland, China, and Japan, began immigrating to the United States. And between 1880 and the early part of the 20th century, over 15 million southern and eastern Europeans came to sample and savor the riches of America.

It was precisely these "riches," better known as the "profit motive," that drove immigrants towards America. But religious persecution, political oppression and a host of other reasons—including broken hearts, wanderlust, and the attraction of the unknown—also played a part in the decisions people made to come to the land of opportunity. Virtually every European immigrant left from one of two sea ports which were located in Germany—

at Hamburg and Bremen. These ports were very seedy and there were many wicked and evil people looking to take advantage of the frightened and lonely travelers. Perhaps it is partly because of this that most immigrants arrived in the United States with less than 25 dollars in their pockets. As far as the journey across the ocean was concerned, it was, in the early days anyway, an extremely rough and uncomfortable trip. A typical passenger would be crammed into a tiny cabin with perhaps a half dozen other travelers. Rarely would anybody ever complete the whole journey without having at least one bout of seasickness. Some days a ship might sail at a rate of as much as eight miles an hour, but other times the passengers could end up further from their future home than they were when they had awoken at dawn. The length of the voyages varied from a little over a month to well over four months, bringing even more uncertainty to the already frightened travelers. At times, groups of ships would sail together, and members of the crew as well as passengers could visit other ships. Other times, however, days would pass without another ship in sight.

Many dangers, ranging from mean-spirited Pirates who roamed the open seas, to fierce storms which pounded the planks of the ships, also contributed to the overall hardship of the journey. But when all was said and done, once the



# CHAPTER THREE

## GETTING STARTED

immigrants set foot on American soil, they forgot the troubles that the trip had wrought, and looked forward to a new beginning and a new lease on life.

Before Ellis Island was built in 1892, immigrants were processed at Castle Garden, located at the far tip of Manhattan. Asian immigrants used to be processed at the Pacific Mail Steamship Company warehouse in San Francisco, but after 1910 they were welcomed at Angel Island in San Francisco Bay.

Once landed on the east coast of mid-17th century America, immigrants might take the King's Highway to Philadelphia, Norfolk, Virginia, or even as far south as Charleston, South Carolina. In later years, an immigrant could grab a stage coach in Philadelphia and take the Great Road out west towards Kentucky.

By the middle of the 1800s, roads began reaching further and further into the South and the West, taking new citizens to exotic far off places like New Orleans, Santa Fe, and throughout California. While the roads were tough, and the journey was rough, our forefathers bit the bullet and not only survived but triumphed with a dignity and a pride that has since gone on to be associated with the word, "American."



## Organizing Your Research Material

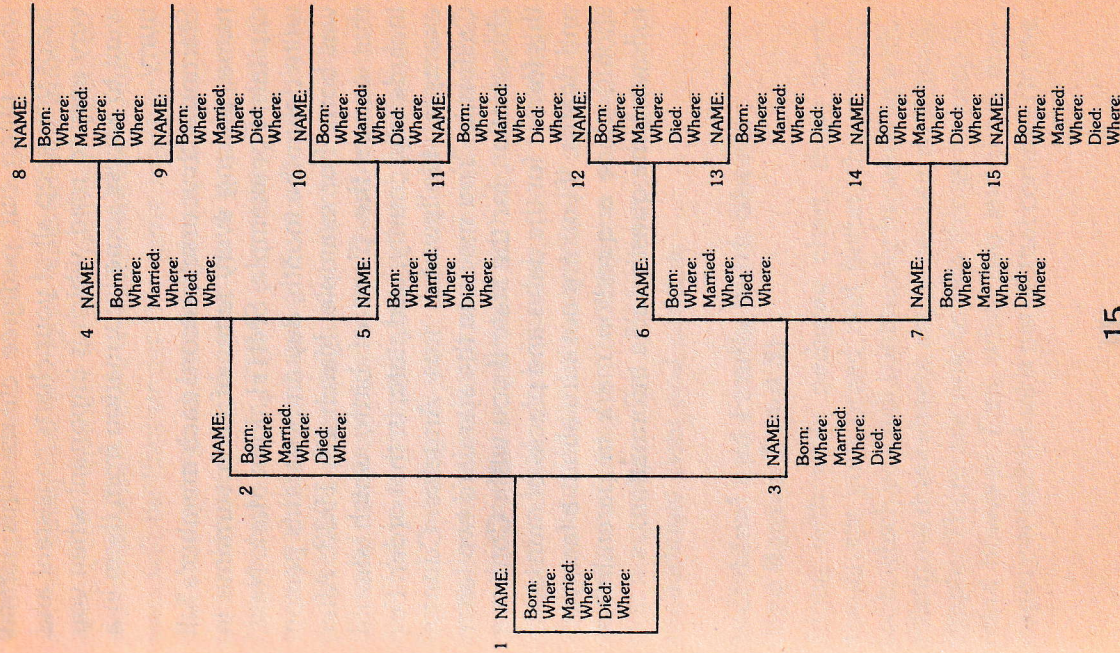
As you begin searching out your family roots, you will undoubtedly begin to gather a great deal of material, ranging from charts and documents to mementos and family photos. In order to keep track of everything, it is imperative that you put together some type of filing system. If you do not do this, you will end up with a morass of notes and papers, scattered about everywhere, making it virtually impossible for you to find necessary items which could be crucial to continuing your search.

Before getting into the particulars of a filing system, let me first go over the major documents which you will be working with. These are the Pedigree Charts (with coding system), the Family Work Sheets, the Individual Work Sheets, and the Individual Questionnaires.

## Pedigree Charts (See figure 1)

A pedigree is the record of a line of ancestors. The first pedigree chart you will work with will go back five generations, to approximately the middle of the 1800s. As you move along in your search, you will be filling out the pedigree chart to mark your progress. It's probably a good idea to fill out this chart in pencil, in order to facilitate any changes you may have to make as you go along. There is a basic, standard format which any genealogist, professional or amateur, follows

Figure 1: Pedigree Chart (4 Generation)





when filling out pedigree charts. This format helps you keep all of your charts consistent and very easy to read, which is important when you want to access some information from them in a hurry.

Starting with yourself, record each member's full name, placing every letter of each surname in capitals. For example, SMITH, John Mark. Next, write down the month, day and year this person was born. For example, March 18, 1933. After that comes the place of birth, which should include city, county, and state, in that order. For example, Hollywood, Los Angeles County, California. You may use the standard two letter abbreviation for the state if you wish. Continue this format for the dates and places of marriages and deaths. If you are not sure about a fact, you should place a question mark in parentheses following the questionable information.

## Coding System

When filling out pedigree charts, you should assign each member a code number. Then, all materials which relate to individual family members will be filed under this same number. The easiest way to go about doing this is to begin with yourself, assigning the number 1 to your name. Number two will then go to your father, number 3 to your mother and so on. To further facilitate your records, only assign even numbers to males, and odd numbers to females. Therefore, number 4 will be your paternal grandfather (your father's father), number 5 your paternal grandmother (your father's mother), number 6 your maternal grandfather (your mother's father), number 7 your maternal grandmother (your mother's mother), etc. While this may initially seem to be slightly confusing, in the long run you will find that it actually makes all of your record keeping exceedingly clear and concise.

## Individual and Family Work Sheets (See figures 2 and 3)

Along with your pedigree chart, these work sheets are your bread and butter, the primary tools which you will continually be working with. Filling out these sheets, as you can see, is relatively simple. There are one or two things to keep in mind however. First, while two and three marriages per individual is not all that common in the



late twentieth century, in earlier times you will undoubtedly come across many family members who were married more than once, primarily because the much rougher and tougher lifestyles (along with the lack of modern medical research) often led to early deaths of one partner or another. Therefore, make sure you have ample space on your work sheets for such matters. Secondly, make sure that if a certain individual did have children with different marriage partners, that you keep a separate family group sheet for each marriage.

Most importantly, you must be extremely accurate when placing any information onto these work sheets. Any error could prove to be extremely costly, leading you into hours of research which will ultimately prove to be thoroughly needless and unwarranted. If, for instance, you place a wrong first name for one of the children, you could begin searching somebody's life who isn't even a member of your family. Therefore, always be sure to check and double check your facts and figures.

## FIGURE 2: INDIVIDUAL WORK SHEET

Code Number:			
Name:			
Date of Birth:			
Place of Birth:			
Date of Death:			
Place of Death:			
Date of Marriage:			
Place of Marriage:			
Name and Code Number of Spouse:			
Name and Code Number of Father:			
Name and Code Number of Mother:			
Occupation:			
Places of Residence:	City	County	State
			Dates
Misc. Information:			



**FIGURE 3: FAMILY WORK SHEET**

Husband's Name and			
Code Number: _____			
Wife's Maiden Name and			
Code Number: _____			
Date and Place			
of Marriage: _____			
Children:			
Name	Birth Date/Place	Death Date/Place	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
Name	Name of Spouse	Marriage Date/Place	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
_____	_____	_____	
Places of Residence:			
City	County	State	Dates
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Misc. Information: _____			
_____			
_____			
_____			

**Filing System**

Now we come to the final portion of the "setting up" period of your search for your family roots, namely the aforementioned filing system. While the filing of individual work sheets will simply follow a straight ahead numerical system—1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, . . .—the numbering system of your family work sheets will be slightly more complicated. Because each family work sheet is tagged with the code number of the husband (or head of the family), the numerical sequence will go 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 . . . (with the possible addition of number 1 if the genealogist himself is the head of a family). In summation, every single person who is placed on the pedigree chart will have an individual work sheet, but only heads of families will have family work sheets which correspond with their code number.

In addition to the individual and family work sheet files, I also recommend that you keep a miscellaneous file. Into this file will go smaller files, arranged by code numbers, which contain photographs, diaries, wills, newspaper clippings and anything else which pertains to a certain family member. This file is absolutely essential in order to ensure that you don't end up with piles of bits and pieces of information.

Now let's go through and see how your filing system and work sheets will operate. Let's say that you want to look up all the information that



you have collected about your paternal grandfather (your father's father). To begin with, you will notice that on the pedigree chart, he has been assigned the code number of 4. You would then go to the individual work sheet numbered 4, the family work sheet which is also numbered 4, and the miscellaneous file which, obviously, is also marked with the number 4.

If, for instance, you wanted to look up your paternal grandfather's brothers and sisters, you would go to the family work sheet that is numbered 8. Why? Because, as you can see from the pedigree chart, your paternal grandfather's father has been assigned the number 8, and therefore all information about your grandfather's brothers and sisters will be contained on the family work sheet which corresponds with your grandfather's father's code number, or number 8. As you can see, this system is efficient and fairly simple to follow once you get going.

And that's exactly what you are now prepared to do. With an excellent record-keeping system at your disposal, you are now ready to plunge ahead into the wonderful and exciting world of "ancestor hunting." So, with this out of the way, let's go . . .

## CHAPTER 4

# LAST NAMES: THE STARTING POINTS OF YOUR SEARCH



## Origins and Meanings

While an individual's last name will rarely if ever solve an especially difficult search for a family member's origin, it can offer insights into such things as place of birth, occupation of the father or other relative of the individual, religion, cultural ties, class status, and even physical features.

It is estimated that there are over 1.5 million last names currently in use in the United States today. Despite the tremendous amount of immigrants who have brought vast numbers of Western and Eastern European names into the country, the most common names in America—Smith, Jones, Johnson, Brown, etc.—are virtually the same as they were around the time of the American Revolution.

Why is this? Basically because immigrants to this country changed their name when they entered the United States, in an attempt to Americanize their names. For instance, a French name such as Boulanger would often be changed to read simply Baker.

This, in turn, leads us into our next point of discussion: occupational names. Names such as Farmer, Fisher, Shepherd, and Miller were originally derived from the occupation of the person who owns such a name. This can often serve as a clue when searching the background of a certain ancestor, particularly in families where the same occupation was inherited by male members of

the family, from generation to generation. Once you have traced your American lineage, and make the leap back overseas, you will undoubtedly come across non-English names from which your name (or your ancestor's) was ultimately derived. Any dictionary of names should be able to help you translate such names.

Last names can also be derived from nicknames, which will provide clues as to physical or personality characteristics of a particular ancestor. For instance, Longfellow was usually assigned to someone who was very tall or thin, while Reid went to an individual who had red hair, freckles, or a particularly hot tempered personality.

Finally, there are names which are formed by way of patronymics. These are names which have derived from one's father. Such names point out that someone was the son or descendant of a particular person. For example, MacGregor is Scottish for "the son of Gregory," while Mendelssohn is German for the "son of Mendel." In English, one sees patronymics at work in the last names of Johnson, Jackson, Peterson, and so on.

Last names are certainly far from being the most important clue which you will come across as you search for your family roots. Why, you may wonder, did I choose to begin with last names in our discussion of how to actually go about finding your family roots? Because it is a valuable lesson



on the importance of being creative and using every available resource that is at your disposal. You must be able to keep enough of an open mind to find that *one* clue, that *one* valuable piece of information, that solves a riddle and allows you to bring your search to yet another succeeding generation instead of stopping right then and there. ALWAYS BE CURIOUS.

# CHAPTER FIVE

## YOU AND YOUR FAMILY: YOUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCES



## Begin With Yourself

When beginning your search for your family roots you must commence the hunt with an examination of yourself; you are the basic building block, the foundation as it may be, of the vast sculpture that will ultimately grow to be your family tree. Besides, you are obviously the easiest subject you have to research!

One thing to be aware of, however, is the importance of accurate information at this level of your search. Any wrong information on your part at this point could lead you on an erroneous path that will take you far from where you want to be.

You can start by filling out the pedigree chart as far back as you can possibly go with the knowledge you have at your immediate disposal, and then move onto your own individual work sheet and then to your or your father's family work sheet. Go as far back as you can possibly go, but keep in mind that you shouldn't put down any information that you *think* is correct. Unless you are absolutely positive about a fact, always check it out with one or more references before assuming it to be true.

You may have the urge to skip this portion of the research process, mistakenly thinking that you know it so well that you can write it all down at any time. But that is the wrong attitude to take at this point. Instead you should welcome the opportunity to get some valuable practice in research

itself, recording facts and even verifying them in some cases.

Additionally, you must ask yourself why you are doing all of this to begin with. Remember, beside putting together a family history for yourself, you are also helping countless future generations of your descendants who will greatly appreciate the work you accomplished. They will want to know about you just as you want to know about some of your ancestors.

That is why it is also important to write down family anecdotes, accomplishments, quirks . . . in general, anything that strikes you as being interesting in any way. If all you record are simple facts such as birth dates and place names, you will end up with a very dry, fairly boring family history. On the other hand, little slices of life, sad and funny tales about family members, etc., will help to make your final family history an exciting, fascinating report to read.

Whenever you need check on some facts, try to go to the person who is still living who was closest to the person whose facts are in question. If, for example, you wanted to find out something about your great paternal grandfather's brothers and sisters, you could go to your paternal grandfather or one of his brothers or sisters to find out the names. If your grandfather and his brothers and sisters are no longer living, you could go to your father or one of your aunts or uncles.



Always remember to go as close to the source in question as possible when trying to verify facts. And just simply work towards yourself from that point onwards, from generation to generation. Only after you have exhausted your living sources should you turn to printed sources of information, which I will discuss in the following chapters.

### **Interviewing Your Living Family Members In Person**

By beginning with live sources, you will save time, energy and just as importantly, you will have more fun! Talking with various relatives of yours will enable both of you to get to know each other better. In cases involving family members with whom you are not on good terms, ask another family member who knows both of you well to do the interviewing for you—but remember that this can only be considered second hand information.

After you have contacted your relative by mail or by phone, informed them of your project and your desire to interview them, and set up a time which is *convenient for the interviewee*, there are a few guidelines to follow to make sure you get a good, fun, and factual interview. Here they are:

- 1) Try to conduct the interview in a one on one setting. If another relative would like to be present at the interview, by all means allow him to do so, for many times, two

people talking about the past are able to trigger memories within each other.

2) Bring a tape recorder if at all possible. Small, portable tape recorders are relatively inexpensive, and their built in microphones are unobtrusive and non-intimidating. Plus, you'll have a permanent record of the whole conversation, including your relative's voice on tape, for succeeding generations to hear.

3) Have a list of questions to ask written down on a sheet of paper. When writing the questions down, try to write them in a way so that one question leads into the next. For instance, if you want to know about one relative in particular, keep all of your questions about this relative—when he was born, where he lived, etc.—together, so that the interview does not jump back and forth from person to person, place to place, and decade to decade.

4) LISTEN: This is the most important thing you can remember to do during an interview. Let the interviewee talk himself out. Never interrupt, and don't assume someone has finished just because they pause for a moment. Always wait for the person to tell you they are finished, or wait for a five or ten second silence before you ask your next question. If a relative seems to be wandering, talking about things you haven't asked him



about, by all means let him talk. It is very likely that he'll come up with an interesting fact or insight about your roots.

5) Phrase your questions in a manner that avoids any bias on your part. For instance, instead of asking, "Your Uncle Ralph was born in New Orleans, right?" You should say, "Where was your Uncle Ralph born?"

6) Don't make the interview last too long. One hour or so should be plenty of time, with two hours being the maximum amount of time you should impose on your subject. By all means, arrange for a second or even third interview if necessary, keeping in mind that two one and a half hour interviews is far more pleasurable and productive than one three hour interview.

7) Finally, please treat these situations as *conversations* rather than a more formal interview. The more relaxed you keep the meeting, the more fun both you and the interviewee will have.

### **Interviewing by Mail**

Many times it is difficult to arrange a live interview because of money and/or geographical considerations. In such cases, you should try to interview your subject by mail. The first thing to do is to write up a cover letter. Here is an example of a good cover letter:

Dear Aunt Violet,

I am presently writing a complete history of our family. So far it has been a tremendously exciting challenge, made much easier by all of the help I have received from my relatives, both close and distant, who have provided me with loads of facts and stories in order to help me in my search.

I would be extremely grateful if you too could offer your help. I have sent along an individual work sheet and a family work sheet, and I would appreciate it if you would take the time to fill these out as best you can. I have also sent along a few questions for you to answer, and would be thankful if you could answer these for me, too.

When I am finished with this project, I plan on making copies for everyone in the family to own, and I'll be sure that you are one of the first to receive it.

All best wishes,  
(your name)

PS—If you have any family records (diaries, bibles, photos, birth and death certificates, etc.) that you could possibly send me so that I may make a photocopy of them, I would be eternally grateful.

Along with your cover letter, you should include a brief questionnaire, with direct, to-the-point



questions. Keep the number of questions you ask to a reasonable number, perhaps 12 at the most, or else you might discourage your potential source. Additionally, you should include a blank individual work sheet and a blank family work sheet. Finally, make sure you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their convenience.

### **Family Records as Sources of Information**

When visiting or interviewing an older relative, ask if you may look at any family records he may have saved. If possible, try to gain access to attics and cellars, where things from the past have been simply packed away or discarded. I can almost guarantee that such searches will provide you with a storehouse of information. Here is what to look for:

**Family Bibles**—Early American tradition stipulated that the head of the family record all vital family information inside of the family bible, usually on the inside of the front cover or the first one or two pages. When checking out this information, always compare the publication date of the bible with the date of entry or date of birth of the person who recorded the information. This way, you'll be able to tell if the material was entered after the fact, or if it is indeed first hand information.

**Diaries**—While these will rarely provide you

with hard core facts, they will give you a unique insight into the cultural and intellectual history of a certain period of time.

**Books**—Books are a surprising fountain of information, as they often contain old letters, love notes, calling cards, newspaper clippings, and an assortment of other bits and pieces of information within their covers.

**Letters**—An extremely valuable source, not only for the contents of the letters themselves, but for what's on the outside of the envelope: addresses, return addresses, postmarks, and dates.

**Family Records**—Wills, deeds, birth and death certificates, passports, armed forces papers, college diplomas, contracts, mortgages, church records, health papers . . . if it's a legal document of any kind, it most likely contains information that you can use.

**Miscellaneous Items**—Silverware, tea pots, quilts, jewelry, watches . . . almost anything that can contain an inscription is worth taking a look at. You never know . . .



# CHAPTER SIX

## THE TREMENDOUS RICHES OF LIBRARIES

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### The Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS)

As any genealogist worth a grain of salt knows, the LDS library in Salt Lake City (along with their regional branches across the United States) has the most comprehensive collection of genealogical records in the world. Every year, this church spends millions and millions of dollars on research. Why? Because their religious doctrine stipulates that all members of the church maintain a thorough and accurate record of not only their immediate family, but of their ancestors as well.

Now, you may be wondering why I am telling you about this, especially if you have no affiliation with the church. Well, with upwards of 75 million records of ancestors in their vaults, there is a very good chance that the records of many of your relatives, whether or not they were in the church themselves, are contained within this massive library.

The best news, however, is that the LDS allows anyone, regardless of religious affiliation, to use their facilities. This means that all of the records of births, deaths, marriages, etc., which are contained on their microfilm files are all available for your perusal.

Obviously, the best way to utilize the LDS library is to take a trip to Salt Lake City and go through their microfilms yourself. If this is not possible for you to do, the next best thing is to visit one of the

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more than two hundred regional LDS libraries spread out across the United States. In such libraries, you won't find as much material as you would at the Salt Lake City branch, but you will gain access to a variety of records, and the staff at these regional libraries will be more than happy to order anything you need from the main library for a nominal charge.

The other option you have if you can not make it to Utah, is to take advantage of the LDS library's Pedigree Research Survey. For a small fee, one of the library's expert researchers will provide you with LDS records of one line of your family. You will receive a copy of your Family Work Sheet, suggestions for future research, and the names and addresses of other distant relatives of yours who are also working on putting together a Family History.

In order to get a survey done on your family, simply write to the Pedigree Research Survey, Suite 1006, 54 East South Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84111. They will send you all the necessary information. You can also go to your local branch of the LDS library and ask them for information.

### **What to Ask Librarians by Mail**

Once you have established which line of your family you are going to search first, and which area of the country you will begin with, you

should contact a library from that region in order to obtain facts, records, or any other information which will be helpful to you as you search for your family roots.

When you write to any library, there are certain guidelines you should follow:

1) Keep your questions brief and to the point. Always give the full name of the person in question, the dates of his birth and death (if known, approximate if you don't know), and the name of the city and county he was born and/or lived in (again, if you don't know the exact name of the town, then give the librarian as much information as you have).

2) Ask about books on local history which might contain information about the ancestor in question.

3) Ask if there is already a family history on file at the library. Chances aren't that great, but you never know; maybe one of your earlier ancestors had the same interest in your family as you do.

4) Ask if there are any other people or history/genealogical societies in the area who you should contact.

5) Always include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and always offer to pay for any photocopying or other office expenses.

6) Never plan on having a librarian do every-



thing for you, such as filling out your work sheets. The more you keep your questions simple and small in number, the greater your chances for receiving valuable information.

### **The Library of Congress**

The Library of Congress is the home of the largest collection of published family histories in the United States. The tens of thousands of books are alphabetized according to family name, making it fairly simple for you to conduct your research.

If you can't visit the Library of Congress in person, you can find out if there is a published history of your family name by writing to The Library of Congress, Science and Technology Division, Washington D.C. 20540. If there is such a published history, the staff at the Library will photocopy it for you for a moderate fee.

# **CHAPTER SEVEN**

## **LOCAL AND STATE RECORDS**



## Primary Sources

In the world of researching, there are basically two types of sources: primary and secondary. Most of the sources we have discussed up to this point have been secondary sources, information that is not officially recorded, but is rather reported via a secondhand source, i.e. a story from a relative, a diary, entries in a family bible, etc.

It is now time to look at primary sources of information—such as local and state records, which can be categorized into two sections: criminal and civil. Criminal records are self-explanatory, and will most likely not be used by you during your search. Civil records, on the other hand, are the genealogist's goldmine. Civil records are divided into three categories: vital, probate, and land records. Along with providing you with information you have not been able to discover throughout the early portion of your search, these records will enable you to verify any fact you feel may be suspect.

## Beginning Your Search of Local and State Records

Your first step will be to figure out when and where the particular ancestor you are researching did something that would cause him to be entered into the official records. This action could be something as significant as a birth, death, or marriage, or something more trivial like a land purchase.

Once you are fairly certain that records of your ancestor are located in a particular city or county, your next decision is whether to search out the record by mail or in person. As discussed in chapter 5, it is always preferable to conduct your research in person, but if this is not possible, then try writing a friendly, concise letter containing your request to the courthouse where you believe the record is located. While courthouse clerks are usually overloaded with work, there is a decent chance you will find one who can answer your request.

Normally, the person to either visit or write to is known as the "clerk of the court" or the "recorder of deeds." Generally, most of the records you will be searching for are located in the courthouses of the individual towns themselves, however, in many southeastern states, records are often filed in the State Archival Depository.

## Vital Records

These records are primarily used to either find out or double check the date and place of your ancestor's birth, death, or marriage. There are many ways to go about locating these documents.

First, you can either write or visit the local courthouse where you think such records will be located. Second, for birth and death records after the last quarter of the 19th century, you can write to the U.S. Government Printing Office, Super-



intendent of Documents, Washington D.C. 20402 and request the brochure entitled "Where to Write for Birth and Death Certificates." This will tell you—state-by-state—what records are available, how much they cost, and where to write in order to receive them.

Third, you can consult the "WPA List of Vital Statistical Records" in your local library, which contains a state-by-state listing of information on where to locate vital records which were catalogued by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s.

Finally, for information on Marriage or Divorce records from the 20th century, write to the U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington D.C. 20402, and request the brochures, "Where to Write for Marriage Records," and/or "Where to Write for Divorce Records."

### **Probate Records**

Probate records are perhaps the most valuable pieces of information available to you as you search for your family roots. While there are many types of probate records, the main one you'll be concerned with is the last will and testament. Technically, the testament is concerned with the disposal of land, while the will primarily deals with an individual's personal property.

During your search you are likely to come across both written and oral (or nuncupative) wills. Oral wills were more common in earlier centuries, when many people did not know how to write, and writing utensils were not always readily available. Both types of wills are valid.

While searching through last will and testament records, you should also be on the lookout for any other probate records which might be contained in the same file. Litigation records, petitions, letters of testimony . . . there is a wealth of information pertaining to your ancestor and his immediate and/or distant relatives in such files, and careful research on your part could turn up an immense amount of material that will be beneficial as you search for your family roots.

When writing to a county clerk requesting a copy of a last will and testament, you might find that you can only receive an "abstraction," or parts of the document, rather than the whole will itself. In such cases, be sure to ask for the following information:

- 1) The name of the person who's will it is, the cause of his death, and the place where he was living at the time of his death.
- 2) The name of every person mentioned in the will and their relationship to the deceased.
- 3) A list of the property that was bequeathed.



- 4) The names of all witnesses and executors.
- 5) A description of any other useful information contained within the document itself, including seals and signatures.

### **Land Records**

Land records include deeds, leases, mortgages, contracts ... basically anything that has to do with the buyer and selling of land. The most important type of land record for your purposes is the "multiple-grantor deed," which lists all sales of a deceased land-owner's property by his children. This document will include the names and birth dates of both the children and their spouses, from the oldest to the youngest child in the family.

When checking out land deeds, look to see how the owner of the property acquired the piece of land, since there is a good possibility that he received it from an ancestor, which will provide you with another piece of your family history puzzle. Likewise, one piece of property is often passed down from generation to generation, and as such, one deed could provide you with all the information you need to complete a certain family work sheet.

# **CHAPTER EIGHT**

## **UTILIZING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS**



## The National Archives

On the Pennsylvania Avenue side of the National Archives building in Washington D.C., there is an inscription that reads, "The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future." This should give you a clue as to just how valuable the records stored here are for anyone who is searching for their family roots.

In the National Archives as well as other institutions located in our nation's capitol—the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, etc.—there is an immense amount of information available to any genealogist. From mortality census schedules to census information, you're guaranteed to find some kind of record of any of your ancestors who ever lived in the United States. Perhaps this is why Washington, D.C. is often called, "the capitol of genealogy."

If you are able to visit the National Archives in person—something every citizen should do once in his life if only to view such grand historical documents as the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution, among others—you will receive a free consultation with a member of the staff, who will be able to give you much needed advice in regards to researching your family roots while inside of this palace of information.

If you can't make it to the National Archives in

person, you can do one of two things. First, you can try requesting information by mail. To do this, send a friendly, precise letter with your request to: National Archives and Records Service, NNC, Washington, D.C. 20408.

The other alternative you have if you are unable to travel to Washington, D.C., is to go to one of their regional branches, where you will find a great deal of the same information that is on file in the main branch. Here are the addresses:

For Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee: Atlanta Federal Archives and Records Center, 1557 St. Joseph Avenue, East Point, Georgia 30344.

For Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont: Boston Federal Archives and Records Center, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, Massachusetts 02154.

For Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin: Chicago Federal Archives and Records Center, 7358 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois 60629.

For Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming: Denver Federal Archives and Records Center, Building 48, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225.

For Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas: Fort Worth Federal Archives and Records Center, 4900 Hemphill Street, Fort



Worth, Texas 76115.

For Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska: Kansas City Federal Archives and Records Center, 2306 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64131.

For Arizona, Southern California, and Clark County, Nevada: Los Angeles Federal Archives and Records Center, 24000 Avila Road, Laguna Niguel, California 92677.

For New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands: New York Federal Archives and Records Center, Building 22—MOT Bayonne, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002.

For Delaware, Pennsylvania, District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia: Philadelphia Federal Archives and Records Center, 5000 Wissahickon Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144.

For Northern California, Hawaii, Nevada (with the exception of Clark County), and all territories in the Pacific: San Francisco Federal Archives and Records Center, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, California 94066.

For Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington: Seattle Federal Archives and Records Center, 6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, Washington 98115.

### **Census Records**

Between the years 1600 and 1789, there were upwards of 40 censuses taken by the individual

colonies and states, all of which are available for you to look at. Official censuses of the United States were first administered in 1790, and copies of the records up until the year 1910 are also available for public perusal.

United States' censuses taken from 1920 to the present are not available to the public because of the Privacy Act of 1974 which stipulated that no federal records less than 75 years old be released to the public. However, if you write to the Bureau of the Census, Pittsburgh, Kansas 66762, and request a census search, they will send you a form to fill out. By sending back the completed form and a small fee, you will receive a copy of the information contained on your ancestor's census records.

Here are a few helpful hints for you to keep in mind while searching through the census files:

1) Be aware that censuses are not always accurate. The reasons for this vary, but primarily it is due to a general mistrust of census takers on the part of the public, and the occasionally deceitful census takers themselves who, because they were once paid by the number of interviews they conducted, would sometimes invent families in order to earn extra money. This shouldn't deter from utilizing the censuses, but you should try to double check the facts you gather from these records.



2) Begin with the 1910 census and work backwards, tracing your family line as far back as possible. Be sure to record all of the information available about your ancestors—whether or not it seems important at the time—onto your family and individual work sheets.

3) Be on the lookout for misspelled surnames, and always check out other families living in the same town or county as your ancestors, who also share the same last name as your ancestors. Also, just because the children in the household share the same last name with the head of the household, don't assume that they are his children. They could be nephews, servants, cousins, etc. This is especially prevalent in the earlier censuses.

Now for the censuses themselves. Listed below are the contents of all of the censuses available to the public.

**1790:** This census lists the names of the heads of households, the number of free white males under and over 16 years old, the number of free white females, the number of free black people, and the number of slaves. Be wary of the figures quoted for average number of family members living in the same household, as they often include people such as workers, friends, or

boarders who were not actually members of the family. Also, when the British attacked Washington, D.C. during the war of 1812, the records for Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee, and Virginia were burned, although many of these lost records have been restored with the help of state tax lists.

**1800, 1810:** Contain the names of the heads of households, the number of free white males and females under the age of 10, and between the ages of 10 and 16, 16 and 26, 26 and 44, and over 44 years old. The census also lists the number of free black people and the number of slaves.

**1820:** This census lists the names of the heads of households, the number of free white males and females under 10 years old, between the ages of 10 and 16, 16 and 18, 18 and 26, 26 and 45, and over 45 years old. Also included are the number of naturalized aliens, the number of people working in the agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing industries, the number of free black people, the number of slaves, and the number of people (with the exception of Indians) who were not taxed.

**1830:** Contains the names of the heads of households, the number of free white people under 5 years old, 10 years old, 15 years old, 20 years old, 30 years old, 40 years old, and so on up to age 100. The census also lists the number of



people working in a variety of different professions, the city, county, town, parish, district, etc., where the census was taken, the names and ages of military veterans who received pensions, the number of deaf, dumb, and insane white and black people, the number of unnaturalized aliens, and a variety of information about schools.

**1840:** This census lists the same information as the previous census, with the exception of number of unnaturalized citizens and information about schools.

**1850, 1860:** At this point, the censuses began to include a great deal more information. For every free person living in the household, there is a record of his name, address, age, sex, color, occupation (for those over 15 years old), value of real estate owned, place of birth (including the name of the state, territory, or county), marriage status, schooling, and value of personal property. For each slave, there was a record of the owner of the slave, and the slave's age, sex, and color, as well as whether the slave was a fugitive or not. Also contained were the total amount of slaves set free by every owner.

**1870:** This census contains the same information as the previous two, as well as a listing of blacks, Chinese, and Indians by name. Also included are the exact month of all citizens either born or married within the year.

**1880:** Indexed alphabetically by name, this

census records the name, age, sex, marital status and color of every person in the household, as well as their relationship to the head of the household. Additionally, the place of birth of the father and mother of the people recorded in the census is also given.

**1900, 1910:** The most complete censuses yet to be released, these two offer the genealogist all of the information included in the previous census, as well as the exact month and year of birth of every person living in the country.

Finally, I should mention the Mortality Census Schedules, which lists the name, age, sex, marital status, place of birth, occupation, place of death, and cause of death of all individuals who passed away during the 12 month period prior to when the census was taken. These records can be found in state libraries and through certain historical societies such as the Daughters of the American Revolution (1776 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.).

### **Military Veterans' Records**

There are basically three main types of military records: the actual record of service itself, military pension applications, and land grant applications. All of these are excellent sources to utilize when trying to find information on your male ancestors. Getting a hold of a record of your ancestor's military service is an excellent way to add some



color and spice to your final product. These records often contain vivid accounts of a soldier's exploits—and who knows, you may have a bonafide war hero somewhere in your family line!

To obtain a copy of such a record, simply write to the National Archives, Washington D.C., 20408, and request a copy of GSA Form 6751. Once you complete and mail back the form, a member of the National Archives' staff will conduct a search for your ancestor's records and mail you back copies of whatever it is they find. There is usually a small photocopying fee for which you will be billed.

The types and content of the military records kept in the National Archives ranges from the Army Muster Rolls of 1784-1912 to Service files for the Bureau of Lighthouses (later known as the U.S. Coast Guard) of 1791-1929. For more information on these records, write to the National Archives at the address above, and request the "Military Service Records in the National Archives of the United States" brochure.

Probably the most important military records, however, are the pension applications. There are literally millions of such records, and the National Archives has divided them into seven categories: Revolutionary War invalid, Revolutionary War service, Old Wars, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War and later, and Indian Wars.

Many pension applications contain a variety of

information, including letters or affidavits from relatives, friends, and fellow soldiers, birth and marriage certificates . . . anything that would have added credence to the veteran's pension claim.

When trying to find the pension application of your ancestor, you must be able to provide the National Archives' staff with the exact state and preferably town or county that your ancestor came from. There are too many duplicate names on file for any positive identification to be made without this information.

To get a copy of your ancestor's pension application file, or to find out if one of your ancestors have ever made such a claim, write the National Archives and request GSA form 6751, just as you would do for a military record. When you receive the copy of the file, check to see if they have sent you the complete file or just one portion of it. If you feel there is more valuable information that was not sent to you, write back to the National Archives and ask them how much it will cost to obtain a copy of the complete file. They will let you know, and you can then decide if it is worth the fee—which can be fairly steep for such a request—for you to have this information.

Land grant applications are another important type of military record. These grants were one of many ways the government rewarded its veterans. Patriots (or their heirs) who fought in wars between the years 1775 and 1855, were entitled to land



which was a part of the public domain. Besides providing an inducement for men to serve their country, land grants also brought about the migration of thousands of people to the wild, west.

Among the information contained in the land grant application files, are the veteran's name, rank, unit, term of service, age, residence, and sometimes even a physical description of said applicant. If filed by an heir, the file should include the name of the veteran, the name of the heir, their relationship, and the place and date of the veteran's death.

Land grant applications are divided into two categories: Revolutionary War and post-Revolutionary War. To obtain a copy of your ancestor's file, write to the National Archives and request that all-important GSA Form 6751.

### **Passenger Lists and Naturalization Records**

With passenger lists, it is possible to find out when your ancestors arrived in the United States as well as what country they left from to get here. In general, the only surviving lists are from the years 1820 to 1945, and from the ports located on the Atlantic Coast or the Gulf of Mexico. The lists from the San Francisco port were destroyed by a series of fires over the years, while records from the late 18th and early 19th centuries are just plain scarce.

Passenger lists, which were filled out by the ship's captain, usually contain the name of the captain, the ship, and the port of embarkation, the name of the port, the date of the ship's arrival, and the name, age, sex, and occupation of each passenger.

Because of the many problems which confront the genealogist who is searching through passenger lists—illegible writing, gaps in the records, incomplete information and indexing—it is imperative that you know the name of the ship your ancestor came on, the name of the port of entry, and the arrival date (approximate as best you can). With this information, the staff of the National Archives just might be able to find the information you are looking for.

Naturalization records might be able to help you in your search for passenger lists, and vice-versa. In other words, if you know the name of the court where your ancestor was naturalized (this can be learned from the list of voters in the county where he lived), you can gain access to his naturalization records, which will tell you the date and the port of his arrival. Likewise, if you have enough information to get a hold of the ship's passenger list that your ancestor arrived on, you should have no problem obtaining his naturalization records.

To receive a copy of your ancestor's naturalization records, write to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 119 D Street, N.W., Washington,



D.C. 20536 and request form N-585. After filling out and returning this form, you will be sent a file of information that should take you and your search for your family roots back to your ancestral homeland.

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# CHAPTER NINE

## MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES

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## Church Records

Church records can be a secret weapon to utilize if you are having trouble locating the birth, marriage, and/or death certificates of a particular ancestor of yours. While these records vary among the different denominations, you will find that most records contain the individual's baptismal date, his place and date of birth, and the names of his parents or guardians.

Keep in mind, however, that if only one parent was a member of the church in question, then only his or her name may be listed. This is also true for the children of a married couple, who do not always join the same church as their parents, and thus would not be included on their parents' church records.

Other matters often recorded by the church include burial dates, death dates, confirmation information, and marriages and marriage banns. These latter two items usually contain the names of the bride and groom, their parents, and the witnesses. Be aware that a marriage bann is only an intention to marry, and that the couple in question may or may not have followed through with their plans.

In order to obtain the records of churches which are still in operation, you can either visit the church directly, or write to the pastor of the church. If the church records you are searching for are of a church which no longer exists, the best

thing to do is to write to the archives of the particular denomination you are interested in. Here are some addresses of churches which keep archives:

American Baptist Historical Society  
1100 South Goodman Street  
Rochester, New York 14620  
American Catholic Historical Association  
Catholic University of America  
Washington, D.C. 20017  
Archives of the Greek Orthodox  
Arch-Diocese of North America  
10 East 79th Street  
New York, New York 10021  
Archives of the Mother Church  
The First Church of Christ Scientist  
107 Falmouth Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
Genealogical Association  
54 East South Temple St. Suite 1006  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111  
Congregational Christian Historical Society  
14 Beacon Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108  
Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania  
Historical Society  
Lutheran Theological Seminary  
7333 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19119



Mennonite Historical Library  
Bluffton College  
Bluffton, Ohio 45817  
Moravian Archives  
North Main at Elizabeth  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015  
Presbyterian & Reformed Church  
Historical Foundation  
Assembly Drive  
Montreat, North Carolina 28757  
The Protestant Episcopal Church  
Church Historical Society  
606 Rathervue Place  
Austin, Texas 78700

### **Searching Graveyards**

If you are having trouble finding church or government records regarding the death of one of your ancestors, your next step might be to visit the graveyard where your ancestor is buried. In fact, you may want to do this in order to find out a variety of information, from names and dates of death of other family members who may be buried in the same cemetery or family plot, to occupations, heritage, and other insightful information which may be written on the gravestone itself.

To locate the cemetery your ancestor is buried in, contact a local historical society in the town which

your ancestor died, or simply contact local cemeteries in the town and county where you think your ancestor may be buried. If you would like to photograph your ancestor's gravestone, make sure you bring along a shovel, a small pair of shears, a wire brush, and some chalk with you when you visit the grave site. After clearing away and cleaning up the area around the headstone and the stone itself, rub the piece of chalk over the gravestone so that the lettering will be easy to read in your photograph.

When you copy down information that is printed on the headstone, make sure you write down everything that appears in the exact manner which it is written on the stone itself. Older gravestones are often written in an archaic or foreign language, and by writing everything down precisely as it appears on the gravestone, you will make it much easier on yourself when it comes time to translate the information.

### **Schools, Colleges and Fraternity Records**

Educational files often contain a great deal of biographical data which can be of immense use to the genealogist. If you know precisely where your ancestor lived, you can check local records to find out which schools were in existence at that time and then try to seek out the records of these schools. Beginning with the private school of your ancestor's religious affiliation may save



you time, since this was how many private schools operated before the existence of a public school system.

If you think that your ancestor may have attended college, you might want to check with some of the older universities around the country, including: William Penn in Philadelphia, Boston Latin School, Harvard, William and Mary, Roxbury Latin School in Roxbury, Massachusetts, and Yale. These institutions of higher education have enrollment records, yearbooks, rosters, and student files reaching all the back to their founding years.

Finally, contacting the National Interfraternity Conference through a local university may ultimately lead you to a great deal of biographical information on one of your ancestors if, of course, he was a member of a fraternity at one time or another.

### **Newspapers**

Newspapers have existed since before the United States was an independent country. While searching through microfilms of newspapers can be quite a chore, the proliferation of newspaper indexes within the last few years has made this research process much less time consuming.

The most obvious information contained in newspapers that is useful to the genealogist are marriage and birth notices, and obituaries. How-

ever, papers such as the *Boston Evening Transcript* have published a genealogical column aimed specifically at people who are searching for lost relatives and information on ancestors who have long since passed away. Check with your local library or, visit or write to the Library of Congress and ask for information on newspaper indexes and how to utilize them best.

### **Private Clubs**

The last type of miscellaneous records I will discuss are those kept by the private clubs which have existed in this country for decades and decades. The Elks, Masons, Knights of Columbus, and the Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions clubs have files on their members dating back to the founders of the association.

Such records contain highly detailed biographical information and occasionally even photographs of the member. You should contact the local president of the club—either in your or your ancestor's home town—that you believe your ancestor may have belonged to in order to find out how you can receive a copy of your ancestor's file.



## CHAPTER TEN

# GENEALOGICAL/ HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND THEIR PUBLICATIONS

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### Joining a Genealogical/Historical Society

By joining a genealogical/historical society, you gain access to magazines, books, libraries . . . a host of genealogical information that can only save you time and money, while providing you with facts you may have never thought would be possible to discover. The Genealogy Club of America is an excellent society for the beginning genealogist to hook up with, as they tend to take a more serious view of people who are simply interested in tracing their family roots as opposed to other societies who are primarily concerned with professional genealogists.

Listed below are the names and addresses of genealogical/historical societies from across the country. Since the membership rules (some require no membership at all in order to use their facilities while others are more rigid) and resource materials vary from organization to organization, I suggest you begin with those societies closest to your home or the home of the ancestor you are most interested in researching.

### ALABAMA

Alabama Genealogical Society  
Box 35  
Epea, AL 35460  
Birmingham Genealogical Society  
Box 2432  
Birmingham, AL 35201

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East Alabama Genealogical Society  
c/o Mrs. J. H. Strothan  
Box 484  
Dadeville, AL 36853  
Mobile Genealogical Society  
Box 6224  
Mobile, AL 36606

#### **ALASKA**

Anchorage Genealogy Society  
Box 100412  
Anchorage, AK 99510

#### **ARIZONA**

Arizona Society of Genealogists  
6565 E. Grant Road  
Tucson, AZ 85715  
Arizona State Genealogical Society  
Box 42075  
Tucson, AZ 85733-2075

#### **ARKANSAS**

Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Assn., Inc.  
P.O. Box 4462  
Shreveport, LA 71104  
Arkansas Genealogical Society  
4200 A St.  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
Madison County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 427  
Huntsville, AR 72740

Northeast Arkansas Genealogical Association  
314 Vine St.  
Newport, AR 73112  
Northwest Arkansas Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box K  
Rogers, AR 72756

#### **CALIFORNIA**

California Central Coast Genealogical Society  
Box 4  
Atascadero, CA 93423-0004  
California Genealogical Society  
2099 Pacific Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Contra Costa County Genealogical Society  
Box 910  
Concord, CA 94522  
Fresno Genealogical Society  
Box 1429  
Fresno, CA 93716  
Genealogical Society of Riverside  
Box 2664  
Riverside, CA 92506  
Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz County  
Box 72  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Hi Desert Genealogical Society  
Box 616  
Victorville, CA 92392



Kern County Genealogical Society  
Box 2214  
Bakersfield, CA 93303  
The Mojave Desert Genealogical Society  
Box 1320  
Barstow, CA 92311  
Orange County Genealogical Society  
Box 1587  
Orange, CA 92668  
Paradise Genealogical Society  
Box 460  
Paradise, CA 95969-0460  
Redwood Genealogical Society  
Box 645  
Fortuna, CA 95540  
San Bernardino Valley Genealogical Society  
Box 2505  
San Bernardino, CA 92406  
San Diego Genealogical Society  
3030 Kellogg St.  
San Diego, CA 92106  
Southern California Genealogical Society  
103 S. Golden Mall  
Burbank, CA 91502  
Sutter-Yuba Genealogical Society  
Box 1274  
Yuba City, CA 95991

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## COLORADO

Boulder Genealogical Society  
Box 3246  
Boulder, CO 80303  
Colorado Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 9671  
Denver, CO 80209  
Larimer County Genealogical Society  
600 S. Shields  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

## CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.  
P.O. Box 435  
Glastonburg, CT 06033  
Descendents of the Illegitimate Sons and  
Daughters of the Kings of Britain  
c/o Brainer T. Peck  
Lakeside, CT 06758  
Stamford Genealogical Society  
Box 249  
Stamford, CT 06904

## DELAWARE

Delaware Genealogical Society  
505 Market Street Mall  
Wilmington, DE 19801

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

National Genealogical Society  
1921 Sunderland Pl., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

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National Society of the Children of the American Revolution  
1776 D Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

National Society of the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century  
1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution  
1776 D Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

National Society of the Daughters of the Founders and Patriots of America  
1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution  
2412 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

National Society of Women Descendents of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company  
3627 Chesapeake Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Society of the Cincinnati  
2118 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008

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## FLORIDA

Florida Genealogical Society  
Box 18624  
Tampa, FL 33609

Manasota Genealogical Society, Inc.  
Box 9433  
Bradenton, FL 33506

Palm Beach County Genealogical Society  
Box 1745  
W. Palm Beach, FL 33402

Polk County Genealogical Society  
Box 1719  
Bartow, FL 33830

Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society  
Box 2801  
Jacksonville, FL 32203

## GEORGIA

Georgia Genealogical Society  
Box 38066  
Atlanta, GA 30334

## IDAHO

Idaho Genealogical Society  
325 State St.  
Boise, ID 83702

## ILLINOIS

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society  
Box 488  
Normal, IL 61761

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National Society of the Children of the American  
 Revolution  
 1776 D Street N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20006

National Society of the Colonial Dames of the  
 XVII Century  
 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20036

National Society of the Daughters of the  
 American Revolution  
 1776 D Street N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20006

National Society of the Daughters of the  
 Founders and Patriots of America  
 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20036

National Society of the Sons of the American  
 Revolution  
 2412 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20008

National Society of Women Descendents of the  
 Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company  
 3627 Chesapeake Street, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20008

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 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
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 Box 2801  
 Jacksonville, FL 32203

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 Box 38066  
 Atlanta, GA 30334

## IDAHO

Idaho Genealogical Society  
 325 State St.  
 Boise, ID 83702

## ILLINOIS

Bloomington-Normal Genealogical Society  
 Box 488  
 Normal, IL 61761

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Chicago Genealogical Society  
Box 1160  
Chicago, IL 60690  
Cumberland and Coles County Genealogical  
Society  
Rt. 1, Box 141  
Toledo, IL 62468  
Decatur Genealogical Society  
Box 2205  
Decatur, IL 62526  
Genealogical Society of Southern Illinois  
c/o Logan College  
Carterville, IL 62818  
Great River Genealogical Society  
c/o Quincy Public Library  
Quincy, IL 62302  
Illiana Genealogical Society  
Box 207  
Danville, IL 61834  
Iroquois County Genealogical Society  
Old Courthouse Museum  
103 W. Cherry St.  
Watseka, IL 60970  
Knox County Genealogical Society  
Box 13  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
Lexington Genealogical Society  
304 N. Elm St.  
Lexington, IL 61753

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Moultrie County Genealogical Society  
Box MM  
Sullivan, IL 61951  
National Woman's Relief Corps (Auxiliary to the  
Grand Army of the Republic)  
629 South Seventh  
Springfield, IL 62703  
Peoria Genealogical Society  
Box 1489  
Peoria, IL 61655  
Sangamon County Genealogical Society  
Box 1829  
Springfield, IL 62705

# **INDIANA**

Elkhart County Genealogical Society  
Rt. 5, Box 48  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
Genealogical Section of the Indiana Historical  
Society  
140 N. Senate Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Pulaski County Genealogical Society  
RR 1  
Winamac, IL 46996  
**IOWA**  
Iowa Genealogical Society  
Box 3815  
Des Moines, IA 50322

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Lee County Genealogical Society  
Box 303  
Keokuk, IA 52632

## **KANSAS**

Finney County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 592

Garden City, KS 67846

Fort Hayes Kansas College Library  
Hays, KS 67601

Heritage Genealogical Society  
W.A. Rankin Memorial Library  
Neodesha, KS 66757

Johnson County Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 8057

Shawnee Mission, KS 66208

Kansas Genealogical Society  
Box 103

Dodge City, KS 67801

Montgomery County Genealogical Society  
Box 444

Coffeyville, KS 67337

Riley County Genealogical Society  
2005 Claflin Road

Manhattan, KS 66502

Thomas County Genealogical Society  
375 W. 4th  
Colby, KS 67701

Topeka Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 4048  
Topeka, KS 66604

## **KENTUCKY**

Central Kentucky Genealogical Society  
Box 153

Frankfort, KY 40601

West-Central Kentucky Family Research  
Association

Box 1465

Owensboro, KY 42301

## **LOUISIANA**

Genealogical Association  
Box 71

Shreveport, LA 71161

Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans  
Box 51791

New Orleans, LA 70150

Louisiana Genealogical Society  
Box 3454

Baton Rouge, LA 70821

## **MARYLAND**

Maryland Genealogical Society  
201 West Monument St.

Baltimore, MD 21201

Prince George's County Genealogical Society  
Box 819

Bowie, MD 20715



Unitarian and Universalist Genealogical Society  
3608 Clifmar Road  
Baltimore, MD 21207

### **MASSACHUSETTS**

New England Historic and Genealogical Society  
101 Newberry St.  
Boston, MA 02116

Pilgrim Society  
Pilgrim Hall Museum  
Plymouth, MA 02360

### **MICHIGAN**

Detroit Society for Genealogical Research  
Detoit Public Library  
5201 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202

Flint Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1217  
Flint, MI 48501

Kalamazoo Valley Genealogical Society  
315 Rose St.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Mid-Michigan Genealogical Society  
3800 Glasgow Dr.,  
Lansing, MI 48910

Muskegon County Genealogical Society  
Hackley Library  
316 W. Webster Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 49440

Saginaw Genealogical Society  
c/o Saginaw Public Library  
505 Janes Ave.  
Saginaw, MI 48607

Western Michigan Genealogical Society  
Grand Rapids Public Library  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

### **MINNESOTA**

Anoka County Genealogical Society  
1900 3rd Ave.  
Anoka, MN 55303

Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic  
3515 East Minnehaha Parkway  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Minnesota Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 16069  
St. Paul, MN 55116

Range Genealogical Society  
Box 278  
Buhl, MN 55713

### **MISSISSIPPI**

The Heart of America Genealogical Society  
c/o Missouri Valley Rm.  
Kansas City Public Library  
311 E. 21st St.  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Ozarks Genealogical Society  
Box 3494  
Springfield, MO 65804



St. Louis Genealogical Society  
1695 S. Brentwood Blvd.  
Suite 203  
St. Louis, MO 63144  
West Central Missouri Genealogical Society  
705 Broad St.  
Warrensburg, MO 64093

#### **NEBRASKA**

Fort Kearny Genealogical Society  
Box 22  
Kearny, NE 68847  
Madison County Genealogical Society  
Box 347  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
North Platte Genealogical Society  
c/o North Platte Library  
4th and Vine  
North Platte, NE 69101

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

New Hampshire Society of Genealogists  
Strafford County Chapter  
P.O. Box 322  
Dover, NH 03820

#### **NEW JERSEY**

Genealogical Society of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 1291  
New Brunswick, NJ 08903

Hereditary Order of Descendents of Colonial  
Governors  
"Pincroft"  
Harter Road  
Morristown, NJ  
National Society of the Colonial Daughters of the  
17th Century  
51 King's Highway W.  
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

#### **NEW MEXICO**

New Mexico Genealogical Society  
Box 8330  
Albuquerque, NM 87108-8330

#### **NEW YORK**

Central New York Genealogical Society  
Box 104  
Colvin Stn.  
Syracuse, NY 13205  
Colonial Dames of America  
421 East 61st Street  
New York, NY 10021  
Daughters of the Cincinnati  
122 East 58th Street  
New York, NY 10022  
Genealogical Society of Colonial Wars  
600 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10016



General Society of the Sons of the Revolution  
 Fraunces Tavern  
 54 Pearl Street  
 New York, NY 10004

National Society of Colonial Dames of America  
 215 East 71st Street  
 New York, NY 10021

National Society of New England Women  
 69 Kensington Road  
 Bronxville, NY 10708

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society  
 122 East 58th Street  
 New York, NY 10022

Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America  
 c/o Robert D.L. Gardiner  
 230 Park Avenue  
 New York, NY 10017

Order of the Founders and Patriots of America  
 c/o Federal Hall Memorial  
 15 Pine Street  
 New York, NY 10005

St. Nicholas Society of the City of New York  
 122 East 58th Street  
 New York, NY 10022

Twin Tiers Genealogical Society  
 230 Devonshire Dr.  
 Elmhurst, NY 114903

Ulster County Genealogical Society  
 P.O. Box 333  
 Hurley, NY 11443

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## **NORTH CAROLINA**

Genealogical Society of the Original Wilkes  
 County  
 Wilkesboro, NC 28659

North Carolina Genealogical Society  
 Box 1492  
 Raleigh, NC 27602

Wilkes Genealogical Society, Inc.  
 Box 1629  
 North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

Bismarck-Mandan Genealogical Society  
 Box 485  
 Bismarck, ND 58501

Mouse River Loop Genealogy Society  
 Box 1391  
 Minot, ND 58701

## **OHIO**

Ashtabula County Genealogical Society  
 Henderson Library  
 54 E. Jefferson St.  
 Jefferson, OH 44047

Lake County Genealogical Society  
 Morley Public Library  
 184 Phelps St.  
 Parinsville, OH 44077

Miami Valley Genealogical Society  
 Box 1364  
 Dayton, OH 45401

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Northwestern Ohio Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 17066

Toledo, OH 43615

Ohio Genealogical Society

419 W. 3rd St.

Mansfield, OH 44906

Ohio Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 2625

Ashland, OH 44906

West August Genealogical Society

1510 Prairie Dr.

Belpre, OH 45714

**OKLAHOMA**

National Society of the United States Daughters  
of 1812

c/o Mrs. Ira J. Dietrich

1421 E. 19th Street

Tulsa, OK 74120

Oklahoma Genealogical Society

Box 314

Oklahoma City, OK 73101

Tulsa Genealogical Society

Box 585

Tulsa, OK 74101

**OREGON**

Coos Bay Genealogical Forum

Box 1211

Coos Bay, OR 97420

Genealogical Forum of Portland

1410 S.W. Morrison, Rm. 812

Portland, OR 97205

Mt. Hood Genealogical Forum

Box 208

Oregon City, OR 97045

Oregon Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1214

Eugene, OR 97400

Rogue Valley Genealogical Society

125 S. Central Ave.

Medford, OR 97501

Willamette Valley Genealogical Society

Box 2083

Salem, OR 97308

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States

4237 Sansom Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Descendents of the Signers of the Declaration of  
Independence

c/o Historical Society of Pennsylvania

1300 Locust Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Erie Society for Genealogical Research

Box 1403

Erie, PA 16512



Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania  
1300 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

General Society of the War of 1812  
3311 Columbia Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United  
States

1805 Pine Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Pennsylvania German Society  
R.D. 1

Breinigsville, PA 18031

Scotch-Irish Society of the United States of  
America

2301 Packard Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth  
of Pennsylvania

c/o Russel Bement, Jr.  
108 Avon Road  
Haverford, PA 19041

Society of the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794  
Dallowgill

3311 Columbia Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen  
121 River Avenue  
Sewickley, PA 15143

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Post Office Box 24  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Auxiliary  
5137 North Howard Street  
Philadelphia, PA

Somerset Genealogical Society  
Box 533

Somerset, PA 15501

## **RHODE ISLAND**

Rhode Island Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 7618

Warwick RI 02887-7618

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

South Carolina Genealogical Association  
P.O. Box 1442

Lexington, SC 29072

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research  
Box 1495

Rapid City, SD 57701

## **TENNESSEE**

Mid-West Tennessee Genealogical Society  
Box 3343

Jackson, TN 38301

Tennessee Genealogical Society  
Box 12124

Memphis, TN 38112

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Watauga Association of Genealogists  
Sherrod Library, Rm. 301  
East Tennessee State University  
Johnson City, TN 37601

### **TEXAS**

Amarillo Genealogical Society  
Amarillo Public Library  
300 E. 4th  
Amarillo, TX 79189  
Austin Genealogical Society  
Box 774  
Austin, TX 78767  
Central Texas Genealogical Society  
1717 Austin Ave.  
Waco, TX 76701  
Chaparral Genealogical Society  
Box 606  
Tomball, TX 77375  
Daughters of the Republic of Texas  
Old Land Office Building  
11th and Brazos Street  
Austin, TX 78701  
Fort Worth Genealogical Society  
Box 9767  
Ft. Worth, TX 76107  
Hispanic Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 55186  
Houston, TX 77055

Hood's Texas Brigade Association  
Confederate Research Center  
Post Office Box 619  
Hillsboro, TX 76645  
McLennan County Society  
1717 Austin Ave.  
Waco, TX 76701  
National Society of the Sons and Daughters of  
the Pilgrims  
2714 Green Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX 76109  
Mesquite Genealogical Society  
Box 165  
Mesquite, TX 75149  
Midland Genealogical Society  
Box 1191  
Midland, TX 79702  
San Angelo Genealogical Society  
Box 3453  
San Angelo, TX 76901  
San Antonio Genealogical Society  
Box 5907  
San Antonio, TX 78201-0907  
Southeast Texas Genealogical Society  
c/o Tyrrel Historical Library  
P.O. Box 3827  
Beaumont, TX 77704



Texas State Genealogical Society  
c/o Mrs. Joe B. Golden  
2100 Hartford  
Austin, TX 78703

Tip O'Texas Genealogical Society  
Harlingen Public Library  
Harlingen, TX 78550

## **UTAH**

Genealogy Club of America  
420 S. 425 West  
Bountiful, UT 84010

National Society of the Daughters of Utah  
Pioneers

300 North Main  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103

National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers  
2998 Connor Street (2150 East)  
Salt Lake City, UT 84109

Utah County Genealogical Society  
110 S. 300 W.  
Provo, UT 84601

Utah Genealogical Association  
Box 1144

Salt Lake City, UT 84110

## **VERMONT**

Genealogical Society of Vermont  
Westminster West, RFD 3  
Putney, VT 05346

Vermont Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 422  
Pittsford, VT 05763

## **VIRGINIA**

American Society of Genealogists  
2255 Cedar Ln.  
Vienna, VA 22180

Children of the Confederacy  
328 North Boulevard  
Richmond, VA 23220

Genealogical Society of Tidewater  
Thomas Nelson Community College  
P.O. Box 9407

Hampton, VA 23670

Jamestowne Society  
4313 North Ashlawn Drive  
Richmond, VA 23221

United Daughters of the Confederacy  
328 North Boulevard  
Richmond, VA 23220

## **WASHINGTON**

Eastern Washington Genealogical Society  
Box 1826

Spokane, WA 99210

Lower Columbia Genealogical Society  
Box 472

Longview, WA 98632



Olympia Genealogical Society  
Olympia Public Library  
8th and Franklin  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Seattle Genealogical Society  
Box 549  
Seattle, WA 98111  
The Tacoma Genealogical Society  
Box 1952  
Tacoma, WA 98401  
Tri-City Genealogical Society  
Route 1, Box 5006  
Richland, WA 99352  
Whatcom County Washington Genealogical  
Society  
P.O. Box 1493  
Bellingham, WA 98227-1493  
Yakima Valley Genealogical Society  
Box 445  
Yakima, WA 98907

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

Marion County Genealogical Club, Inc.  
Marion County Library  
Monroe St.  
Fairmont, WV 26554  
Wetzel County Genealogical Society  
Box 464  
New Martinsville, WV 26155

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#### **WISCONSIN**

Milwaukee County Genealogical Society  
916 E. Lyon St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
Wisconsin State Genealogical Society  
c/o Mrs. John M. Irwin  
2109 20th Ave.  
Monroe, WI 53566

#### **WYOMING**

Cheyenne Genealogical Society  
Laramie County Library  
Central Ave.  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

#### **Genealogical Periodicals**

Genealogical periodicals have been published throughout the history of the United States which, of course, means that there is an overwhelming amount of published material out there to sort through. Fortunately, there exists a good number of indexes to these publications, which can make locating a particular article or piece of valuable information about one of your ancestors relatively easy. Here are the names of the more informative indexes:

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- Barber, Gertrude A., comp. *Subject Index of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Volumes 39-76 Inclusive*. New York: The Author, 1946.
- Brigham, Clarence S. *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*. 2 vols. Worcester, Mass.: 1947.
- Cappon, Lester J. *American Genealogical Periodicals: A Bibliography with a Chronological Finding-List*. New York: New York Public Library, 1962.
- Columbia Library Club, comp. *The Missouri Historical Index: Volumes 1-25*. Columbia: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1934.
- Cruise, Boyd, comp. *Index to the Louisiana Historical Quarterly*. New Orleans: Plantation Bookshop, 1956.
- Daughters of the American Revolution. *Genealogical Guide. Master Index of Genealogy in the DAR Magazine, vols. 184, 1892-1950*. Washington, D.C.: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1951.
- Doll, Eugene E., ed. *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography: Index, Volumes 1-75*. Philadelphia: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1954.
- Everton, George B., ed. *The Handy Book for Genealogists*. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1971.

- Fisher, Carlton E. *Topical Index, Vols. 1-50, 1912-1962*. National Genealogical Society, special pub. 29. Washington, D.C.: The Society, 1964.
- Genealogical Periodical Annual Index, Vols. 1—1962—. Bladensburg, Md.: Ellen S. Rogers. Bowie, Md.: George E. Russell.
- Gerould, Winifred. *American Newspapers, 1821-1936. A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada*. New York: 1937.
- Gregory, James P., Jr., comp. *Missouri Historical Review: Cumulative Index to Volumes 26-45*. Columbia: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1955.
- Index to the Wisconsin Magazine of History, Volumes 26-35*. Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1955.
- Jacobus, Donald L. *Index to Genealogical Periodicals*. Vol. 1, 1858-1931; vol. 2, 1932-1946; vol. 3, 1947-1952. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1963-65.
- Krueger, Lillian, comp. *The Wisconsin Magazine of History: Index, Volumes 1-15*. Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1934.
- Parsons, Margaret Wellington, ed. *Index (Abridged) to the New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Volumes 51 through 112*. Marlborough, Massachusetts: The Author, 1959.



Riker, Dorothy, comp. *Indiana Magazine of History: General Index, Volumes 1-25*. 1930. Reprint. New York: Kraus Reprint Corp., 1967.

Royne, Josephine E., and Chapman, Effie L., eds. *New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Index of Persons, Subjects, Places, Vols. 1-50*. 3 vols 1906-1911. Reprint. Baltimore: GPC, 1972.

Russell, George E. *Genealogical Periodicals Annual Index*. Vol. 5—, 1966—. Bowie, Md.: The Author, 1967—.

Spear, Dorothea N. *Bibliography of American Directories Through 1860*. Worcester, Massachusetts: American Antiquarian Society, 1961.

*Supplement to Genealogical Guide: Master Index of Genealogy in the DAR Magazine, Vols. 85-89, 1950-1955*. Washington, D.C.: Daughters of the American Revolution, 1956.

Swem, E.G., comp. *Virginia Historical Index*. Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1965.

Waldenmaier, Inez. *Annual Index to Genealogical Periodicals and Family Histories*. Vols. for 1956-1962. Washington, D.C.

Youngs, Florence E. *Subject Index of the New York Genealogical & Biographical Record, Vols. 1-38*. New York, 1907.

### Where to Buy Genealogical Publications

Whether you locate a particular publication in one of the indexes mentioned above, or if you

just simply want to inquire about published material on a certain region of the country, the following genealogical publishers and book sellers should be able to help you. Write to them requesting either their catalog (usually free) or information on a particular publication that you are interested in.

### EAST

Carl-Del-Scribe  
Box 746  
Burlington, VT 05401

Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.  
Box 305  
West Hartford, CT 06107

Genealogist's Bookshelf  
Box 468, 330 E. 85th St.  
New York, NY 10028

Hoenstine Book Mart  
Box 208  
Holidaysburg, PA 16648

George S. MacManus Company  
2022 Walnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

New England Historic and Genealogical Society  
101 Newbury St.  
Boston, MA 02116

New York Public Library  
Grand Central Station, Box 2747  
New York, NY 10017



Charles E. Tuttle Company, Inc.  
Rutland, VT 05701

## **SOUTH**

American Association for State and Local  
History

132 9th Ave. North

Nashville, TN 37208

Boarderland Books

Anchorage, KY

Genealogical Book Company

521-23 St. Paul's Pl.

Baltimore, MD 21202

Genealogical Publishing Company

521-523 St. Paul's Pl.

Baltimore, MD 21202

Holmes-Corey Antiquities

Box 115 M

Marco Island, FL 33937

Kentucky Publishing Company

153 Cherokee Park

Lexington, KY 40503

Magna Carta Book Company

5324 Beaufort Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21215

Polyanthos, Inc.

833 Orleans St.

New Orleans, LA 70116

100

Reprint Company  
154 W. Cleveland Park Dr.  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
Southern Historical Press  
Box 229

Easley, SC 29640

Walton-Folk Americana

330 Cherokee St.

Kennesaw, GA 30144

## **MIDWEST**

Bland Books

401 N.W. 10th St.

Fairfield, IL 62837

The Bookmark

Box 74

Knightstown, IN 46148

Gale Research Company

Book Tower

Detroit, MI 48226

Heritage Resource Center

Box 26305

Minneapolis, MN 55426

Hoosier Heritage Press

520 N. Campbell St.

Indianapolis, IN 46219

## **WEST**

Ancient Book Shop

Box 986

Santa Fe, NM

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The Augustan Society  
Hartwell Company  
1617 W. 261st St.  
Harbor City, CA 90710  
Brigham Young University Press  
205 University Press Bldg.  
Provo, UT 84602  
Dawson Book Shop  
550 S. Figueroa St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Deseret Book Company  
44 E. South Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84110  
Everton Publishers, Inc.  
Box 368  
Logan, UT 84321  
Hawkes Publishing, Inc.  
156 W. 2170 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115  
Heritage Research Institute  
964 Laird Ave.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84105  
(Origins of names)  
Saddleback Book Shop  
Box 10393  
Santa Ana, CA 92771  
San Francisco Historical Records  
1204 Nimitz Dr.  
Colma, CA 94015

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# CHAPTER ELEVEN

## BRINGING YOUR NEW, EXTENDED FAMILY TOGETHER

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### **Why Unite Your Extended Family?**

Bringing together your extended family should be looked upon as the ultimate goal of your search for your family roots. In today's hectic age, when so many of our country's traditional values seem to be falling by the wayside, keeping a strong sense of your family's heritage is more important than ever. Children in particular relish the comfort and security that comes along with a sense of family history, of generation succeeding generation, and of carrying on the honor and tradition of the family name.

### **How to Arrange an Extended Family Gathering**

The best way to go about getting together your newfound family is to plan a reunion over a holiday weekend. Pick a location in a region of the country that is somewhat central to where the majority of your family members live. If possible, try to choose a spot that is in some way relevant to the history of your family—perhaps the city where one of the family's oldest ancestors lived. You should have plenty of copies of the material you have collected during your search available for everyone to see, including family and individual work sheets, photographs, newspaper clippings, diaries, birth, marriage and death certificates and the like. It is also a good idea to bring along a tape recorder and either a still camera or

a video camera so that you will be able to record the events that take place over the weekend, including all of the valuable stories that will surely be told by family members about their ancestors.



## CHAPTER TWELVE

### SEARCHING FOR YOUR ANCESTRAL HOMELAND

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#### **Begin at Home**

Any search for your ancestral homeland should begin right here in the United States. Before spending the money, time and energy that goes into either writing or traveling overseas, you should gather all the information you can about the ancestors of those countries you will be researching.

To begin with, you will at least need to know the name of your ancestor, the country and city where he came from, and the approximate date of his immigration. The next step would be to contact the LDS library in Salt Lake City, or one of their regional branches in your area, to see what kind of information they have about your ancestor on their files. You'll be pleasantly surprised to know that, along with their vast collection of American genealogical records, the LDS library has a sizable amount of information on countries who have supplied the United States with immigrants.

The staff at the LDS library will also provide you with the addresses of foreign agencies who may be able to supply you with the records of birth, death, marriage, etc. which you will ultimately be searching for. If, for some reason, the LDS library does not have the addresses for the particular country you are interested in, or if the agencies overseas prove to be of no help, try writing to the American embassy in the country or city you are

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interested in researching and ask them if they can be of any assistance.

In general, you should conduct all of your foreign correspondence just as you would do in the United States; after all, most countries have the same type of record keeping system as we do, with census data, military information, tax records, etc. all readily available. Always remember to include enough international reply coupons to cover the cost of having your overseas connection answer any of your inquiries.

While searching for your family roots in foreign countries is a highly challenging and often—in the case of Iron Curtain countries—frustrating experience, the rewards of such a search defy description. To be able to walk on the same ground that your ancestor stepped on hundreds of years ago, to correspond with a distant relative in a far away country, to discover that your ancestor was a famous artist or writer whose works you've always admired but whom you never dreamed you were related to . . . these experiences are like no other, as they link you to other worlds and other lifetimes that you perhaps never even knew existed but are actually as much a part of you as the small town or neighborhood that you grew up in.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

# STATE-BY-STATE REFERENCE LIST



## **ALABAMA**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Public Health  
Montgomery, AL 36104

Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research  
Samford University Library  
800 Lakeshore Dr.  
Birmingham, AL 35208

## **ALASKA**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
Department of Health and Welfare  
Pouch "H"

Juneau, AK 99801

Alaska Historical Library

Pouch "G"

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

## **ARIZONA**

Division of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 6820  
Phoenix, AZ 85005

Arizona State Department of Library and Archives  
Third Floor  
State Capitol  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

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## **ARKANSAS**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Arkansas History Commission  
Old State House  
Little Rock, AR 72201

## **CALIFORNIA**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Public Health  
1927 Thirteenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Historical Society  
2090 Jackson Street

San Francisco, CA 94109

California State Archives  
R. 200, 1020 "O" St.

Sacramento, CA 95814

Conference of California Historical Societies  
University of Pacific

Stockton, California 95204

Genealogical Research Center  
Department of Special Collections  
San Francisco Public Library  
Civic Center

San Francisco, CA 94102

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## **COLORADO**

Records and Statistics Section  
Colorado Department of Health  
4210 East Eleventh Avenue  
Denver, CO 80220

Records and Statistics Section  
Colorado Department of Health  
4210 East Eleventh Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

## **CONNECTICUT**

Public Health Statistics Section  
State Department of Health  
79 Elm street  
Hartford, CT 06115

Connecticut Historical Society and Library  
1 Elizabeth Street  
Hartford, CT 06105

Connecticut League of Historical Studies  
114 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06510

## **DELAWARE**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
State Board of Health  
State Health Building  
Dover, DE 19901

Historical Society of Delaware  
Sixth and Market Streets  
Wilmington, DE 19801

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Public Archives Commission  
Hall of Records  
Dover, DE 19901

## **FLORIDA**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
State Board of Health  
P.O. Box 210  
Jacksonville, FL 32201

Florida Board of Archives and History  
401 East Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Florida Historical Studies  
University of South Florida Library  
Tampa, FL 33620

## **GEORGIA**

Vital Records Service  
State Department of Public Health  
47 Trinity Avenue, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Georgia Department of Archives and History  
330 Capital Avenue, S.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Georgia Historical Commission  
116 Mitchell Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

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## **HAWAII**

Research and Statistics Office  
State Department of Health  
P.O. Box 3378

Honolulu, HI 96801

DAR Memorial Library

1914 Makiki Hts. Dr.

Honolulu, HI 96822

Hawaiian Historical Society

560 Kawaiahao Street

Honolulu, HI 96803

Public Archives Library

Iolani Palace Grounds

Honolulu, HI 96813

## **IDAHO**

Bureau of Vital Statistics

State Department of Health

Boise, ID 83701

Idaho State Historical Society and Library

610 North Julia Davis Drive

Boise, ID 83706

## **ILLINOIS**

Bureau of Statistics

State Department of Public Health

Springfield, IL 62706

Illinois State Archives

Archives Bldg.

Springfield, IL 62706

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Illinois State Historical Society and Library  
Centennial Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

## **INDIANA**

Division of Vital Records

State Board of Health

1330 West Michigan Street

Division of Vital Records

State Board of Health

1330 West Michigan Street

Indianapolis, IN 46206

Indiana Historical Bureau

State Library and Historical Building

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Indiana Historical Society and Library

140 North Senate Avenue

Indianapolis, IN 46204

## **IOWA**

Division of Records and Statistics

State Department of Health

Des Moines, IA 50319

State Historical Society of Iowa Library

University of Iowa

Iowa City, IA 52240

## **KANSAS**

Division of Vital Statistics

State Department of Health

Topeka, KS 66612

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Kansas State Historical Society and Library  
120 West Tenth Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

### **KENTUCKY**

Office of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
275 East Main Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
  
Kentucky Historical Society  
Old State House  
P.O. Box H  
Frankfort, KY 40601

### **LOUISIANA**

Division of Public Health Statistics  
State Board of Health  
P.O. Box 60630  
New Orleans, LA 70160  
Bureau of Vital Statistics  
City Health Department  
1W03 City Hall, Civic Center  
New Orleans, LA 70112  
  
Howard Tilton Library  
Map and Genealogy Rm.  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
  
Louisiana Historical Association  
Box 44222—Capital Station  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

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### **MAINE**

Office of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health and Welfare  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04330  
  
Maine Historical Society  
485 Congress Street  
Portland, ME 04111

### **MARYLAND**

Division of Vital Records  
State Department of Health  
State Office Building  
301 West Preston Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
  
Bureau of Vital Records  
City Health Department  
Municipal Office Building  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
  
Maryland Historical Society  
201 West Monument Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

### **MASSACHUSETTS**

Registrar of Vital Statistics  
272 State House  
Boston, MA 02133  
  
Bay State Historical League  
Room 51  
The State House  
Boston, MA 02133

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City Registrar  
Registry Division  
Health Department  
Room 705, City Hall Annex  
Boston, MA 02133  
Massachusetts Historical Society  
1154 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02115

#### **MICHIGAN**

Vital Records Section  
Michigan Department of Health  
3500 North Logan Street  
Lansing, MI 48914  
Historical Society of Michigan  
2117 Washtenaw Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

#### **MINNESOTA**

Section of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
350 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Minnesota Historical Society and Library  
690 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

#### **MISSISSIPPI**

Division of Public Health Statistics  
State Board of Health  
P.O. Box 1700  
Jackson, MS 39205

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Department of Archives and History  
Archive and History Bldg.  
Capitol Green  
Jackson, MS 39205  
Vital Records Registration Unit  
State Board of Health  
P.O. Box 1700  
Jackson, MS 39205

#### **MISSOURI**

Vital Records  
Division of Health  
State Department of Public Health and Welfare  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
State Historical Society of Missouri  
University Library Building  
Hitt and Lowry Streets  
Columbia, MO 55201

#### **MONTANA**

Division of Records and Statistics  
State Department of Health  
Helena, MT 59601  
Montana Historical Society  
225 North Roberts Street  
Helene, MT 59601

#### **NEBRASKA**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
State Capitol  
Lincoln, NE 68509

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Nebraska State Historical Society  
1500 R Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

#### **NEVADA**

Department of Health, Welfare, and  
Rehabilitation  
Division of Health  
Section of Vital Statistics  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Nevada State Historical Society and Library  
P.O. Box 1129  
Reno, NV 89504

#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Department of Health and Welfare  
Division of Public Health  
Bureau of Vital Statistics  
61 South Spring Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
New Hampshire Historical Society and Library  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301

#### **NEW JERSEY**

State Department of Health  
Bureau of Vital Statistics  
P.O. Box 1540  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
New Jersey Historical Society  
240 Broadway  
Newark, NJ 07104

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New Jersey State Library  
Archives and History Bureau  
185 W. State St.  
Trenton, NJ 06618

#### **NEW MEXICO**

Vital Records  
New Mexico Health and Social Services  
Department  
PERA Building  
Room 118  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
Museum of New Mexico  
P.O. Box 2087  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

#### **NEW YORK**

Bureau of Vital Records  
State Department of Health  
Albany, NY 12208  
New York Public Library  
American History and Genealogy Division  
Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10018  
New York State Historical Association  
Lake Road  
Cooperstown, NY 13326

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## **NORTH CAROLINA**

Public Health Statistics Section  
State Board of Health  
P.O. Box 2091  
Raleigh, NC 27602  
Division of Archives  
Office of Archives and History  
State Department of Art, Culture and History  
109 E. Jones St.  
Raleigh, NC 27611

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

Division of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
Bismarck, ND 58501  
State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Liberty Memorial Building  
Bismarck, ND 58501

## **OHIO**

Division of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
G-20 State Department Building  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Ohio Historical Society  
North High Street and 15th Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210

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## **OKLAHOMA**

Division of Statistics  
State Department of Health  
3400 North Eastern  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
Historical Building  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
State D.A.R. Library  
Historical Bldg.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

## **OREGON**

Vital Statistics Section  
State Board of Health  
P.O. Box 231  
Portland, OR 97207  
Oregon Historical Society  
1230 S.W. Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205  
Oregon State Archives  
1005 Broadway, N.E.  
Salem, OR 97301

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

Division of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
Health and Welfare Building  
P.O. Box 90  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Div. of Archives  
Box 1026  
Harrisburg, PA 17108

#### **RHODE ISLAND**

Division of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
State Office Building  
Room 351  
Providence, RI 02903  
Rhode Island Historical Society  
52 Powell Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
Rhode Island State Archives  
314 State House  
Providence, RI 02900

#### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
State Board of Health  
Sims Building  
Columbia, SC 29201  
South Carolina Department of Archives and  
History  
1430 Senate Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

#### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Division of Public Health Statistics  
State Department of Health  
Pierre, SD 57501

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South Dakota Historical Society and Library  
Memorial Building  
Pierre, SD 57501

#### **TENNESSEE**

Division of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Public Health  
Cordell Hull Building  
Nashville, TN 37219  
Tennessee State Library and Archives  
403 7th Ave. N.  
Nashville, TN 37219

#### **TEXAS**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
410 East Fifth Street  
Austin, TX 78701  
Dallas Public Library  
Texas History and Genealogy Department  
1954 Commerce St.  
Dallas, TX 75201  
Texas State Historical Association  
Box 8059  
University Station  
Austin, TX 78712

#### **UTAH**

Division of Vital Statistics  
Utah State Department of Health  
44 Medical Drive  
Salt Lake City, UT 84113

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Genealogical Library  
Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus  
Christ of Latter Day Saints  
50 E. North Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84105  
Utah State Historical Society and Library  
603 East South Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

#### **VERMONT**

Secretary of State  
Vital Records Department  
State House  
Montpellier, VT 05602  
Genealogical Library  
Bennington Museum  
Bennington, VT 05201  
Vermont Historical Society and Library  
State Administration Building  
Montpellier, VT 05602

#### **VIRGINIA**

Bureau of Vital Records and Statistics  
State Department of Health  
James Madison Building  
P.O. Box 1000  
Richmond, VA 23208  
Virginia Historical Society and Library  
428 North Blvd.  
P.O. Box 7311  
Richmond, VA 23221

#### **WASHINGTON**

Genealogical Library  
1101 2nd S. East  
Quincy, WA 98848  
Bureau of Vital Statistics  
Division of Health  
Washington State Department of Social and  
Health Services  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Washington State Historical Society and Library  
315 North Stadium Way  
Tacoma, WA 98403

#### **WEST VIRGINIA**

Division of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Health  
State Office Building No. 3  
Charleston, WV 25311  
Department of Archives and Historical Library  
Cultural Center  
Capitol Complex  
State of West Virginia Library  
Charleston, WV 25305

#### **WISCONSIN**

Bureau of Health Statistics  
Wisconsin Division of Health  
P.O. Box 309  
Madison, WI 53701



State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
816 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706

**WYOMING**

Bureau of Vital Statistics  
State Department of Public Health  
State Office Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82001  
Western History and Archives Department  
University of Wyoming  
Laramie, WY 82070  
Wyoming State Historical Society  
State Office Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82001



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Have you ever wondered if one of your ancestors was a famous, important person? A President, or a King of a far away country? Perhaps your last name is Washington, and you've always fancied yourself as a distant relative of the father of our country. If you've shown a flair for painting or writing, maybe you've fantasized that your talent is really in your genes, coming from an ancestor with a name like Michelangelo or Shakespeare.

Yes, the heritage of each and every one of us is a fascinating thing. Who hasn't dreamed of origins, of distant members of the family who lived in another place, in another time? Who hasn't seen an old photograph or a person that bore a striking resemblance to themselves and thought, "What if...?"

The science of genealogy can unlock these doors and answer these intriguing questions. In *How To Find Your Family Roots*, William Latham shows you how to go back into history to find out just who you *really* are and where you came from. And Mr. Latham will show you how to search for your family roots in a simple, easy, and inexpensive manner.

So what are you waiting for? Let's get started on your search for your family roots!

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